

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 7, 8, and 10-17 remain active in this application, Claims 7, 8, 10 and 11 having been amended, Claims 1-6 and 9 canceled and new Claims 12-17 added by the present Amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action Claims 1-3, 5-6 and 9 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Adusumilli (US 6,418,545 B1); Claim 4 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Adusumilli; and Claims 7, 8, 10 and 11 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but otherwise were indicated as including allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that Claims 7, 8, 10 and 11 include allowable subject matter. In light of this indication, and in order to obtain an early patent issuance from the present application, Claims 7, 8, 10, 11 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. In addition, new dependent Claims 12-17 corresponding to the original Claims 2-6 and 9 have been added. Accordingly, no new matter has been added, no new issues raised, and the pending Claims 7, 8 and 10-17 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Consequently, in light of the present amendment, the present application is also believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Customer Number

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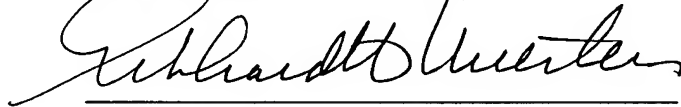
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(OSMMN 06/04)

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